

Backcountry Camping Trip Guide

Three Nights

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Shenandoah National Park
Emergency: 1-800-732-0911



AT: Jenkins Gap to Pinnacles

AT - One way

Level: Strenuous Beginner

Total Length: 28.3 miles

Trip Description: Excellent views, including Marys Rock

Entry: 12 MP - Jenkins Gap

Exit: 35 MP - Hannah Run Parking

Map(s): PATC #9 - 10

Day One

Campsite: AT (1B) Gravel Spr - Elkwallow Gap * - backcountry

5.7 miles

Park at Jenkins Gap Parking Area.

Hike on Jenkins Gap Trail a short distance to the Appalachian Trail (AT).

Turn left, hiking south on the AT for 5.5 miles.

Turn left toward Gravel Springs hut, hiking 0.2 mile.

Camp in the hHut or at the designated campsites.

Day Two

Campsite: North District developed area (MACG) - campground or cabin

5.7 miles (plus optional 3.8 miles to highest falls at SNP)

Return to the AT, 0.2 mile.

Turn left, hiking south on the AT for 3.8 miles.

Turn right onto Tuscarora/Overall Run Trail and hike 0.7 mile.

Turn left, then left again onto Traces Trail, hiking 0.5 mile.

Register to spend the night at Mathews Arm Campground and ask for directions to falls if you need to. (The tent sites are about 0.5 miles, other sites are closer.)

Set up camp, then (optional) day-hike down to Overall Run Falls, 3.8 miles roundtrip. (Be sure to properly store your food items before leaving them unattended.)

Day Three

Campsite: AT (1D) Beahms Gap - Rt 211 * - backcountry

10 miles

Hike south on Elkwallow (the trail leaves from near the registration station), 2 miles.

Turn right onto the AT, hiking south 7.3 miles.

Turn left to Pass Mountain hut, hiking 0.2 mile.

Camp in the hut or at the designated campsites.

Day Four

6.9 miles

Return to the AT and turn left, 0.2 mile.

Hike south on the AT 6.7 miles to Pinnacles Picnic Area, the end of the trip.

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Notes

Mathews Arm Campground generally opens at the end of May and closes the end of October. (Camping is not allowed there when the campground is closed.) Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis and may fill to capacity on weekend nights. Plan to arrive by 4:00 p.m. on a Friday or Saturday (earlier on a holiday weekend).

Do not plan your trip from mid-May through mid-July! While the AT is always busy, this is when the north-bound thru-hikers come through Shenandoah, and there will not be any camping available at the huts.

Options

Range View Cabin is available for rent from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (www.patc.net).

Change your route as follows:

Day two (5.1 miles) AT south for 4.8 miles, turn left to cabin, 0.1 mile.

Day three (8.6 miles) Turn right onto AT, AT south for 8.3 miles.